

## REPORT ON MISSOURI'S LITERACY INITIATIVES

**STATUTORY AUTHORITY:**

Section 161.092, RSMo

☐Consent  
Item☐Action  
Item☒Report  
Item**PRIORITY AREAS**

Success-Ready Students &amp; Workforce Development

Educator Recruitment &amp; Retention

**SUMMARY**

The Department continues focusing on early literacy as a main priority, thus ensuring that all Missouri students have the opportunity to graduate prepared for success. Research suggests that student success in every content area and life opportunity is based on the foundational skills of reading. This guiding principle is leading the Department to ensure that all literacy practices and programs are aligned to the science of reading, which focuses on evidence-based, explicit, and systematic instructional practices.

This discussion will provide an update on the Department's current literacy initiatives:

- Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed
- Updates on Senate Bill 681
  - Literacy-Based Quick Reference Guide
  - Literacy Advisory Council
  - Steps to Success Literacy Plan
  - Reading Success Plans
  - Educator Preparation
  - Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund
- Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD), and
- Program Analysis and Accountability.

**PRESENTERS**

Tracy Hinds, Deputy Commissioner, Division of Learning Services; and Heather Knight, Director of Literacy; Office of College and Career Readiness, will assist with the presentation and discussion of this agenda item.

December 13, 2022

# Report on Missouri's Literacy Initiatives



Tracy Hinds, Deputy Commissioner  
Division of Learning Services

Heather Knight, Director of Literacy  
Office of College and Career Readiness

## Why Science of Reading?



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## Overview



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- Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed
- Senate Bill (SB) 681
  - ❑ Literacy-Based Quick Reference Guide
  - ❑ Literacy Advisory Council
  - ❑ Steps to Success Literacy Plan
  - ❑ Reading Success Plans (RSPs)
  - ❑ Educator Preparation
  - ❑ Evidence-Based Reading Instruction Program Fund
- Comprehensive Literacy State Development (CLSD)
- Program Analysis and Accountability

# Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed



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## READ

All students will develop the foundational skills needed to read successfully.

## LEAD

Missouri will lead in reading improvement.

## EXCEED

All students will exceed in every aspect of literacy development at every level.

**3,775**

Number of K-5 educators participating in the Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed current Language Essentials for Teachers of Reading and Spelling (LETRS®) training

**23**

Number of State-wide LETRS® Trainers

**454**

Number of local education agencies (LEAs) represented in Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed

**500**

Number of educators who received a scholarship to participate in LETRS® training

**1,500**

Number of educators participating in LETRS® training outside of Missouri Read, Lead, Exceed

**3,717**

Number of educators previously trained in LETRS®

# Literacy-Based Quick Reference Guide



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Section 161.241.1, RSMo: The State Board of Education (SBOE), in collaboration with the Coordinating Board for Higher Education and the Commissioner's Literacy Advisory Council under § 186.080, RSMo, shall develop a plan to establish a comprehensive system of services for reading instruction.

SBOE/Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE)	LEA	School	Teacher
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide guidance and technical assistance related to diagnostic assessment data and interventions.</li> <li>• Provide a list of state-approved reading assessments.</li> <li>• Provide empirical-based professional learning opportunities and instructional strategies shown to be successful for students with persistent reading difficulties.</li> <li>• Provide a list of research-based instructional materials for students with persistent reading difficulties and that align with evidence-based reading instruction.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide teacher and leader training in evidence-based reading strategies for students with persistent reading difficulties.</li> <li>• Develop a protocol for providing intensive intervention based on diagnostic data for students.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement intensive interventions for students identified as needing an RSP.</li> <li>• Implement a communication process for teachers and parents to discuss RSPs.</li> <li>• Maintain RSP-related assessment and intervention documentation.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Follow LEA-level protocol for implementing legislative requirements of RSPs.</li> <li>• Maintain RSP-related assessment and intervention documentation.</li> <li>• Meet with parents and/or guardians to review RSPs.</li> </ul>

## Literacy-Based Quick Reference Guide

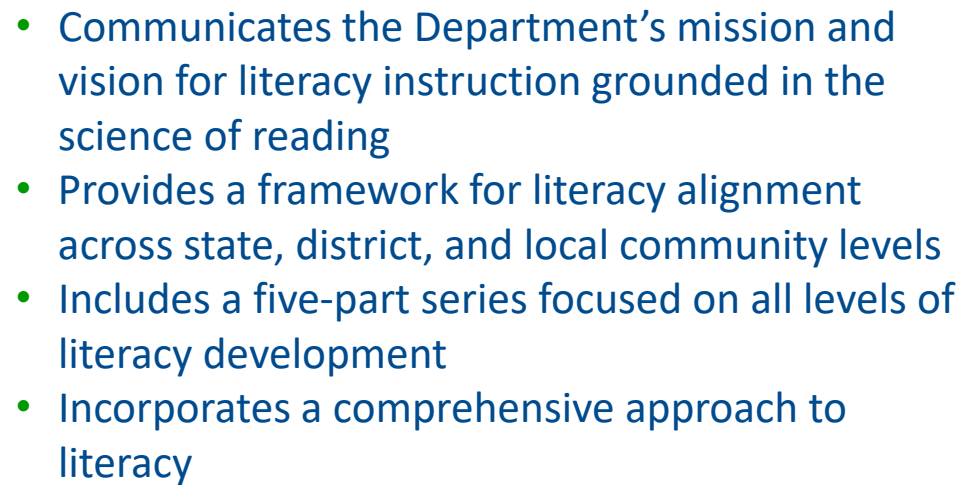
## Literacy Advisory Council



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- Review best practices in literacy instruction and related policy provisions
- Provide a means for the public to share input and ask questions concerning literacy
- Provide recommendations regarding improvements to literacy instruction and policy
- Advise the Department on:
  - ❑ Implementation and maintenance of the statewide literacy plan
  - ❑ Services the Department should provide to support LEAs
  - ❑ Collection of literacy-related data
  - ❑ Best practices for tiered literacy instruction
  - ❑ Literacy assessments and outcomes
- Meet at least twice per year to review best practices in literacy instruction and related policy provisions
  - ❑ Inaugural meeting November 29, 2022
  - ❑ Second meeting planned for early spring 2023

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## Reading Success Plans



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- Designed to support and monitor students who are not meeting grade-level reading proficiency and ensure effective communication with parents and guardians.
- RSP guidance document
  - ❑ LEA RSP policy formulation
  - ❑ Measures of reading readiness
  - ❑ Strategies for intervention
  - ❑ Timelines for progress monitoring
  - ❑ Dyslexia screening information/requirements

# Educator Preparation



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- Early literacy competencies
  - ❑ Align literacy and reading coursework
    - Early childhood, kindergarten to fifth grade, middle, and high school communication arts, reading, and special education
  - ❑ Present to State Board by spring 2023
- Literacy Grants
  - ❑ Field Experiences
  - ❑ Conferences
  - ❑ Professional Development
  - ❑ Course Revision



**THE PATH FORWARD**  
For Teacher Preparation and Licensure in  
Early Literacy

## Evidence-based Reading Instruction Program Fund



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- Five strategic reimbursement focus areas
  - ❑ Teacher training – LETRS® materials
  - ❑ Instructional materials
  - ❑ Parent/student support and resources – Future Literacy Excellence (FLEx)
  - ❑ Teacher stipends – LETRS® training
  - ❑ Reading assessments

# Comprehensive Literacy State Development



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## Goals for the Missouri CLSD Program

- Advance literacy skills for children from birth to grade twelve
  - ❑ Build capacity of LEA leaders to develop, implement, and maintain high-quality, evidence-based literacy plans
  - ❑ Prepare educators and their communities to meet the literacy instruction needs of all students
  - ❑ Increase literacy outcomes for all children
- Alignment with SB 681
  - ❑ LETRS® training for 180 elementary teacher participants
  - ❑ Professional development aligned with evidence-based literacy instruction
  - ❑ Development of comprehensive evidence-based district literacy plan

## Program Analysis and Accountability



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- Department-approved reading assessments
  - ❑ Monitor beginning and end-of-year assessment data
  - ❑ Implement second grade end-of-year reading assessment
  - ❑ Analyze Lexile levels statewide
- Monitor successful completion of teacher professional learning
- LEAs report specific intensive reading interventions and supports
- Comprehensive School Improvement Plan must address reading proficiency

## Next Steps



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## References

<https://dese.mo.gov/college-career-readiness/literacy>

## Contacts

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